# President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities February 25, 2014

J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College Huntsville, Alabama

#### **Advisors Present**

William Harvey, Chairman

Demetria Henderson

Beverly Wade Hogan

Milton Irvin

Ronald Mason

Helen McAlpine

Renee Mauborgne\*

Willie Pearson

Earl Stafford

Beverly Daniel Tatum

Kenneth Tolson\*

\*By phone

David Wilson

#### **Advisors Absent**

Lawrence Bacow

Evelynn Hammonds

**Edward Lewis** 

Valerie Mosley

John Rice

Dianne Suber

### White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Staff

George Cooper, Executive Director

Sedika Franklin, Program Specialist

Ivory Toldson, Deputy Director

Elyse Jones, Program Support Specialist

## U.S. Department of Education Representatives

Jamienne Studley, Acting Under Secretary

Marcia Boyd, Acting Director, Minority Serving and Under Resources Schools Division, Federal Student Aid

Mark Mitsui, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, Office of Career and Technical Adult Education

#### Other U.S. Federal Agency Representation

J. Nadine Gracia, MD, MCSE, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

#### Call to Order

Chairman Will Harvey called the February 25, 2014 meeting of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Chairman Harvey then proceeded to thank Dr. Alpine and her team at J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College for being gracious hosts. Dr. Cooper called the roll and established that a quorum of members were present.

#### Chairman's Report

Chairman Harvey began his chairman's report by addressing some of the policy matters of particular concern in the HBCU community. The first topic discussed was the restoration of a full Title III funding. His hope is to see the funding level return, at least, to its status as it was in 2010. Chairman Harvey then proceeded to direct attention to the proposed college rating system. In doing so, he mentioned that it was either Valerie Moses or John Rice who asked at the last meeting how the Board would be involved in assisting the Administration in developing the system. The White House Initiative was labeled as the point of contact to keep the Board informed on efforts to answer that question. The second topic Chairman Harvey mentioned was the college rating system. He commented the need for the college rating system to recognize the unparalleled successes of the HBCUs in educating disproportionate percentages of low-income students, first generation students, and minority students.

The Parent PLUS Loan issue as it pertains to the change in rule interpretation two years ago was the third topic addressed. Chairman Harvey took time to mention that it is because of this change in interpretation that some schools will never recover and many of the students who were lost are lost forever. He disclosed the concern the Board has on the impact on students, their families, student enrollment, and institutions. Chairman Harvey also stated that before any new is finalized an analysis of the impact of the rule should occur. He then took note of Dr. Harrell's

presence in the meeting and that, in part, he hoped to receive an explanation of the negotiated rule making process and an update on where things are in the process.

The Cohort default rate and the possibility that some HBCUs may lose eligibility to participate in the Federal Direct Loan and Pell Grant programs was the fourth issue Chairman Harvey addressed. He explained that HBCUs will lose eligibility if their institutions Cohort default rate exceeds 30% for three consecutive years or 40% for one year. Again, Dr. Harrell was pinpointed as the person most capable to converse on the HBCUs affected, efforts made to ensure the numbers are correct, and the default management plans that have been into effect. Chairman Harvey stressed that none of our schools can afford to be cut off from Pell Grants and Federal Direct Loans.

Chairman Harvey called attention to the lack of reports in the HBCU community in regards to agency engagements of HBCUs since 2010. He mentioned Undersecretary Martha Kanter's

assurance from September (2013) on having the reports for 2011 and 2012 with 2013 being in preparation and his hope that the reports would be forthcoming. Chairman Harvey then mentioned inability to convince the Administration thus far in regards to the five percent being asked for of all the institutional funds that the agencies provide; he did say it is something that is being discussed as an aspirational goal. In regards to attaining this goal he suggested having it written down and included as part of the revision of the Executive Order. Chairman Harvey stressed that the request is only five percent of the funding that the various agencies provide to all of higher education and that prior agencies have done this, one being the Administration of President Bill Clinton, the need is pertinent and hopefully something that will become and actuality.

Dr. Ron Mason's work on the need to attract and graduate African American males was given attention. His Five Fifths agenda was noted as being replicated all over the country, and not just in HBCUs. Dr. Toldson was mentioned as the speaker in regards to giving an update on this topic. Praise was given to the Board on the good work thus far. Chairman Harvey spoke on his hope on the agendas of the Board moving forward with assistance from Dr. Cooper and his team in the White House Initiative.

The Board's progress was then mentioned. The facilitation of the three organizations which represent HBCUs in Washington; the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) and their progress in collaborating more and working together more effectively with the Department, was noted. Chairman Harvey then disclosed his candid and off-the-record meeting with the principals, the Presidents of the aforementioned organizations, and Secretary Duncan on a quarterly basis to discuss policy matters of concern and interest.

Attorney Linda Chastain was mentioned as segue to discuss the opportunity to meet with Cabinet officers and institutions at the top levels of government. From such meetings, the Executive Director of NIH and the approached and presented to Chairman Harvey the opportunity to assist a search committee for the selection of the chief diversity officer. At the time NIH was providing less than one percent to HBCUs. It was mentioned that last week Dr. Francis Collins, Executive Director of the NIH, appointed Dr. Hannah Valentine, an outstanding professor of medicine at Stanford University who is believed to open up more opportunities at NIH for HBCU scientists, women, and the physically challenged.

Another result from the meetings with the Cabinet secretaries and agency heads, came a peer review process that is more inclusive, more diverse peer reviewers, more technical assistance workshops targeting MSIs, and numerous high level visits to our campus by program managers and Cabinet secretaries resulting in the preservation of programs in HBCUs which were once in jeopardy and new programs to support HBCUs were developed. HBCU program managers have more appreciation and a better understanding for what the Administration is doing on campus and they are responding when the needs and desires of the Board are presented to them.

Chairman Harvey disclosed an area of opportunity which could affect junior and community colleges as well as senior institutions, was the H1D Ready to Work Partnership grant program. It was initially presented as a proposed initiative by Dr. Erica Henderson last June and has been put into effect by the Employment and Training Administration at the Department of Labor with a grant of approximately 150 million dollars in funds. The Department expects to fund about 20 to 30 grants, with individual grants ranging from three million to ten million dollars. The grant was designed to help long-term unemployment workers with the support they need and aid employers who use H1D visas. A key part in this disclosure was the intern opportunities for post sophomores and seniors as a result of this opportunity.

Chairman Harvey then recapped the work which needs to be done in regards to the Parent PLUS Loan, Title III reduction, the Cohort Default Rate, staying ahead of the college rating system, and telling the HBCU story. He stated that there is a good infrastructure in place at the White House Initiative on HBCUs under Dr. Cooper's leadership, which he feels very positive about. The UNCF, NAFEO, TMCF was also mentioned as part of team and he encouraged everyone to work together to holistically receive a larger part of the pie than to fight for the crumbs. He affirmed his confidence in the continued commitment of the Board to keep moving forward. Chairman Harvey then opened the floor to entertain questions or comments for any topic he left undiscussed.

Hearing no questions or comments, he then turned the podium program over to Dr. Cooper.

#### White House Initiative on HBCU's Executive Director's Report

Dr. Cooper began his remarks by greeting everyone good morning. He then stated he would take a few minutes to highlight some activities the White House Initiative on HBCUs has been involved in as a staff since the last meeting on September 25, 2013. He then proceeded to thank his staff for the logistical arrangements for all to be included in Huntsville, Alabama in regards to receiving clearance for the Redstone Arsenal, despite the hiccups; it was a great event for all who attended.

Dr. Cooper then asked everyone to hold the dates of September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> for the tentatively scheduled HBCU conference held in Washington, DC which follows the Congressional Black Caucus event, and he proposed to the President's Board of Advisors meeting to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

Dr. Cooper addressed the topic of the HBCU reports and stated that the website <a href="https://www.ed.gov/WHHBCU">www.ed.gov/WHHBCU</a> houses the information for years; '08, '09, and '10 and a summary will be available. Data for the '11 and '12 year summaries are being finalized and the hope is to have the information for '11 data completed by the end of April and the '12 data completed by the end of August. The call was made for plans and reports on January 10<sup>th</sup> of 2014 for the '13 data, with hopes that those reports will be in and summarized by the end of September this year. The importance of this scheduling is to create a cycle of reports done on an annual basis and this is

the commitment of the White House Initiative. The process was indicated to be in place as the calls have been placed to 34 agencies in the department. Individuals responsible for submitting the data have received training so that there is consistency to the format. Although the initial data will be presented in aggregate format; forthcoming will be a disaggregate format, where an itemized look at the amount of federal funds which go to individual institutions is included.

Dr. Cooper gave an account of his experiences since his onboarding at the White House Initiative. Meetings with seven agencies; Human Health Services (HHS), the Department of Interior, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Education, looking at activities on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), NOR, Department of Labor, and the Department of Justice. He mentioned The Five Percent, as the aspirational goal, as a discussion point in every meeting. Dr. Cooper stated that to make this goal an actuality the assurance is needed to have programmatic linkages within our, the Advisory Board, institution. The targeted goal is to align the aspirational goal of federal agencies, through communication with respective Presidents, with the aspirational goal of each of the HBCUs. By doing so, community togetherness will result in better conversation and investments.

Dr. Cooper disclosed information received in a conversation shared with Dr. Toldson and the staff of the Congressional Black Caucus. The focus on Title III support, increased funding from the department of Interior, primarily historic renovation, land grant funding for Central State University, the new 1890 land grant university, and support for STEM activities. Their guidance was that the greatest return on our investment is going to be working with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy, these agencies were already met and continued conversation is occurring. During this meeting, it was made known that the Department of Education has funding for the First in the World Initiative, which will be discussed with more detail later in the meeting.

The success in having nominations made to have Presidents serve on some emerging issues which were announced by the White House in; the President's Score Card and Matrix, the presentation at George Mason University where there were two representatives of HBCUs; at Louisiana State University (LSU) there were four representatives; and six presidents participating in the President's Meeting on Access and Affordability in Washington, D.C., and one HBCU president who will be involved in negotiating the rule-making process, Forward PLUS.

Dr. Cooper mentioned his and Dr. Toldson's engagement in conversations with two of the three advocacy groups; meeting with Dr. Lomax and his staff and Dr. Harrell and his staff, which covers UNCF and Thurgood Marshall. A meeting with Leslie Baskerville is scheduled to ensure understanding and communication in terms of budget priorities and demonstrate collaboration. Invitations extended to my team and staff to the quarterly meetings with President Harvey and Secretary Arne Duncan also provides the chance for advocacy group representatives to meet and

participate together. This raises the priority level, as it pertains, to the Department of Education to the standard it needs to be and we are believed to be making progress.

Dr. Cooper then stated, he will be participating in a Department of Defense President's Round Table in Tuskegee, for one of the two days, coordinated by the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Clarence Johnson with the Department of Defense. Where one of the topics discussed will be the K-through-12 STEM development, contracting partnerships, equal opportunity, educational opportunities in Defense, and research and development opportunities; he said he will be sure to share notes with everyone to gauge understanding some of the movement and opportunities with the Department of Defense.

Dr. David Wilson sought Dr. Cooper's thoughts regarding the ability to have a conversation with the other five White House Initiatives around a common agenda targeting similar issues of concern. Dr. Cooper accepted the opportunity to make the meeting a priority.

Dr. David Wilson further inquired if tribal serving institutions, Hispanic serving and Asian serving advisory boards are having similar conversations around the impact of Parent PLUS, Pell and other policy-type issues. Dr. Harvey interjected stating that although other institutions were affected by the new rules around Pell, they were not as much as HBCUs and asking Acting Under Secretary Jamienne Studley to address the collaboration of the White House Initiative Executive Directors.

Dr. Studley confirmed that all the White House Initiatives are housed within the office of the Under Secretary which handles all higher education policy at the Department of Education. Furthermore, she acknowledged that the directors do meet and work together to address common priorities, like the Violence Against Women Act, but noted that issues are not identical due to the statutes/structure or history of the institutions. She explained that with PLUS and CDR issues were of special concern to HBCUs which is why the Department has spoken most objectively with the HBCU community.

Dr. Ronald Mason then asked if the subcommittees were still active with this Administration. Dr. Harvey reassured Dr. Mason that the committees remain in place.

Dr. Harvey then acknowledged the attendance of Sam Munneryln, President of Trenholm State Technical College in Montgomery, Alabama and Dr. Valerie Richardson, Vice President of Gadsden State Community College and thanked them both for coming.

# **Educational Excellence for African Americans (EEAA)**

Mr. David Johns informed the Board of President Obama's upcoming announcement of My Brother's Keeper on February 27<sup>th</sup> which is a continuation of his investment in supporting boys and men of color. He then mentioned the EEAA partnership with Ebony magazine to take conversations about "Saving Our Sons" to cities like Jackson, Oakland, Los Angeles,

Philadelphia and Atlanta through August of 2014. Mr. Johns also announced that the EEAA has a partial board of advisors and will be working with the HBCU Initiative to appoint two members of the PBA to the EEAA board and vice versa.

#### Update from the Acting Under Secretary

Dr. Studley began by expressing her deep respect for HBCUs and their impact on American higher education. She provided the board with her biographical information and mentioned that she will be return to her official role at Deputy Under Secretary when Ted Mitchell is Senate-confirmed.

Dr. Studley explained that her remarks would be focused on the things that are coming up. First, a regulation on the Gainful Employment Rule. This comes from the belief that we can do better by our students who are seeking practical career training. Dr. Studley says the Gainful Employment Rule is tied to the national goal for 2020, "First in the World" status for college completion which will ensure that student have access to higher education and obtain a degree that is meaningful. The "First in the World" program is a \$75 million dollar investment for education innovation that has \$20 million dollars set aside for minority-serving institutions.

Next, Dr. Studley turned to Cohort Default Rates (CDR). Reconfirming that the numbers have been made available to the institutions and the Department is actively working with schools who are seeking appeals, correcting rates and continuing in the program. Linked to the CDR is Parent PLUS. Dr. Studley confirmed that HBCU presidents, Swinton and French are active members of the Negotiated Rulemaking committee and are involved in discussions to change the rule in a meaningful way for institutions, students and families.

Dr. Studley then provided updates on the college rating system that intends to combat rising college costs and improve the value of education. She stressed that the Department of Education is listening to the people through listening sessions across the nation at California State University, George Mason University, University of Northern Iowa and Louisiana State University and the additional special events with HBCU leadership. She noted that the definitions of value and affordability are yet to be determined, but conversations are being had with students, administrators and other policymakers to begin to shape the equation of graduation rates, cost and earnings after graduation.

Finally, Dr. Studley spoke about the intangible rewards of education that cannot be explained with numerical value: critical thinking, ability to communicate, being a lifelong learner and involved in the community. She said it would take educating people on the right questions to ask and schools to provide the stories that will ultimately attract the students to their institutions. Dr. Studley stated that the Department is currently evaluating comments and deciding what the next steps will be.

### Federal Student Aid Update

Dr. Joel Harrell provided a summary overview of outreach efforts to the HBCU community, highlighting information sharing, announcements and workshops. 39% of people who were declined Parent PLUS loans chose the reconsideration process. Dr. Harrell stated that his team is working to determine what the other 61% elected to do.

Dr. Marcia Boyd provided an update on the three year Cohort Default Rates issued to institutions in February 2014. Default management workshops were slated to begin in March 2014 across the nation. She urged Presidents to take a real look at their default rate because the data may be inaccurate. The inaccuracies are being addressed, but presidents must challenge the rate in order for it to be corrected prior to the official calculation on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Milton Irvin asked "What's the default rate for degreed students or those that did not get the degrees?" Dr. Boyd stated that research shows that a number of students are those who stopped their education, failed or dropped out while there are still those who are degreed and fail to pay.

Dr. Wilson suggested that Dr. Cooper plan a webinar for HBCU Presidents on the urgency of the CDR review and training. Dr. Harrell and Dr. Boyd agree to work with Dr. Cooper to make this a reality.

Chairman Harvey asked Dr. Beverly Tatum, president of Spelman to comment on her institution's CDR management strategy. Dr. Tatum stated that keeping in contact with students is the first step because they all want to know what the school is doing. She follows by saying that the issue is that students don't have money.

#### Bridge from 2 to 4 Year Colleges

Dr. Mark Mitsui, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education joined the conversation by phone to provide an update on the state of community colleges. Stating that the First in the World program affords a real opportunity for institutions to innovate and have some resources that will improve student completion. Vice President Biden is in charge of the task force that must report back to the President 180 days from the State of the Union. Examples of the interagency work are the Investments in Manufacturers Community Partnerships, Trade Assistance Adjustment Community College Career Training Program (TAACCCT) and program for military veterans.

#### **HBCUs and Health Issues**

Dr. Nadine Garcia, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and the Director of the Office of Minority Health provided an overview of the Office of Minority Health and discuss engagement and collaborative efforts in support of HBCUs (See slides for details). Dr. Garcia made a commitment to ensure that the Federal Register Notice announcing solicitations for board nominations reaches all PBA members and HBCU stakeholders.

#### **Educational Pipeline**

Dr. Ivory Toldson provided context on issues of importance to the White House Initiative on HBCUs by discussing the changing landscape of K-12 education that seems to affect the quality/quantity of students received at HBCUs. He began with statistics: 1.3 black children were in institutes of higher education in 1980; 3.7 in 2011; Two-thirds of all HBCUs have increased their enrollment over the past 20 years; and One-third of all HBCUs have decreased enrollment in the last 3 years. He went on to say that in 2011 there was only 1 HBCU, FAMU that ranked in the Top 20 for enrolling black students. Questions and comments were fielded to address a citation that the University of Phoenix (UoP) was the 2001 leader in the enrollment of black male students. Dr. Toldson lamented that although UoP enrolled a large number of black males their overall completion rate was a low 11%.

Chairman Harvey commented that students should be looking for colleges and universities that will help them obtain gainful employment upon graduation and that is something that UoP does not offer.

Bringing the conversation back to the pipeline, Dr. Toldson explained that there are 8.5 million black children enrolled in K-12 which lead him to believe that the future of HBCUs is bright but there are some barriers to post-secondary education to be addressed (i.e., the disproportionate offering of physics, algebra II and Calculus in schools with large populations of minority students; the lack of enrollment in AP classes by minority students; the explosion rate; and the lack of preparation for the ACT and SAT).

Dr. Toldson closed by offering the results of a survey administered to 4000 African American high school students, ranking the most important to least important factors when selecting a college:

1: Job Placement

2: Academic Quality/ Reputation

3: Program of Study

4: Cost of Attendance

5: Graduate School Placement

6: Good Social Life

7: Sports Team/School Spirit

8: Opportunity to play sports

9: Family/Friend Recommendation

10: Being Close to Home

11: Being Far from Home

12: Family Legacy

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. Toldson participated in a group dialogue about many of the pipeline concerns he addressed. Chairman Harvey then asked that he send the statistics from his remarks to the members of the Board. Dr. Toldson agreed.

#### **Public Comment**

Dr. Harvey opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, he thanked Dr. McAlpine and her staff for graciously hosting the meeting on her campus. He also thanked Dr. Cooper and his staff for assembling a comprehensive agenda to include the briefing, tour and dinner with General Via at Redstone Arsenal.

Dr. Harvey then called for an action to approve the previous board meeting minutes. Mr. Stafford moved to approve the minutes and it was seconded. The minutes were approved and signed.

Adjournment

Dr. Harvey thanked everyone for their time and the meeting was adjourned.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.

William Harvey

Chairman

10

## President's Board of Directors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities February 25, 2014

# J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College Huntsville, AL

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order

William R. Harvey, Chairman

B. Roll Call

George E. Cooper, Executive Director White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

C. Chairman's Report

Chairman Harvey

D. Executive Director's Report

**George Cooper** 

E. Ex Officio Report

David Johns, Executive Director

White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans

**Break** 

F. Update from the Under Secretary

Jamienne Studley, Acting Under Secretary
U.S. Department of Education

G. Update from Federal Student Aid

Marcia Boyd, Interim Director Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division Federal Student Aid, U. S. Department of Education

- H. Sub-Committee Reports
- I. Presentations

**Educational Pipeline** 

Ivory Toldson, Deputy Director White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Bridge from 2 Year to 4 Year Colleges

Mark Mitsui, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, Office of Career and Technical Adult Education U.S. Department of Education

**HBCUs and Health Issues** 

J. Nadine Gracia, MD, MCSE, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health Office of Minority Health U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Break

J. Public Comment

Chairman Harvey

K. Adjournment

Chairman Harvey

# Federal Student Aid

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# **February Draft Rates Just Released?**

#### Fiscal Year 2011 3-Year Cohort Default Rate Calculations

Beginning this year, National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) will only calculate the 3-Year Cohort Default Rate and will no longer calculate the 2-Year Cohort Default Rate.

NSLDS will calculate the cohort default rates according to the following schedule:

FYZ011 3-YEAR	CALCULATION	RELEASE
DRAFT	January 11, 2014	February 18, 2014
OFFICIAL	July 26, 2014	September 15, 2014

Please provide all changes that may affect the Fiscal Year (FY) rates prior to the calculation dates noted above. A borrower's record(s', may be updated online via the NSLDS Professional Access Web site (https://www.nsldsfap.ed.gov/nslds\_FAP/default.jsp) or as part of your guaranty agency's (GA's) submittal. All updates must be received and accepted by NSLDS prior to the above-noted calculation dates in order for the data to be reflected in the calculations.

#### A CDR Refresher Course? It's Not Too Late!

FSA's training department has put together a fantastic webinar consisting of lessons on Cohort Default Rate Fundamentals, the Loan Record Detail Report and other general information on challenges, adjustments, and appeals.

To access the webiner, go to: http://fsatraining.info

Select Live and Recorded Webinars, from the drop down menu choose Default Aversion and Management. Viewing this webinar, does require a user profile. If one does not have a profile, it will only take a few minutes to create one.

#### Default Management Workshop Series

The Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schoo's Division is conducting a series of workshops throughout the United States this spring. Information on the workshop dates and locations, as well as a link to register is coming soon so look for it!

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